

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 35204 022020Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T PARIS 35204

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TRIP: SCHEDULE

REF: A) STATE 284389
B) STATE 284074
C) STATE 286266

SUMMARY: ELYSEE HAS BEEN BACK IN TOUCH TO CONFIRM PRE-
SIDENT GISCARD'S PERSONAL REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF
REVISED SCHEDULE CONTAINED IN REFTELS WITH ONE EX-
CEPTION WHICH GIVES HIM POLITICAL PROBLEMS. END
SUMMARY.

1. ELYSEE CHIEF OF CABINET SAUZAY HAS CONFIRMED TO US
THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD HAS PERSONALLY REVIEWED RE-
VISED SCHEDULE CONTAINED IN REFTELS. GISCARD WELCOMES
IDEA OF SPEECH BY PRESIDENT CARTER, OFFERS TELEVISION
FACILITIES, AND APPROVES REST OF DRAFT PROGRAM WITH
EXCEPTION OF PROPOSED WHISTLE STOP AT LISIEUX.

2. LISIEUX POSES TWO POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR GISCARD:
FIRST, CITY ARCHITECT WAS APPARENTLY INVOLVED IN
SOME SORT OF FINANCIAL PECULATION WHICH COULD COME
TO LIGHT IN GLARE OF PUBLICITY AND SECOND,

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FORMER MAYOR AND CURRENT DEPUTY IS AN RPR MEMBER
UNFRIENDLY TO GISCARD. GISCARD WOULD THEREFORE PREFER
TO OMIT LISIEUX STOP WHICH WOULD BE EMBARRASSING
FOR HIM.

3. ADDITIONALLY, SAUZAY POINTS OUT THAT LISIEUX IS
NOT A PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE CITY. BASILICA OF ST.

THERESA IS LONG WAY FROM RAILROAD STATION AND THERE WOULD BE TIME PROBLEM IF IT WRE INCLUDED ON VISIT. FRENCH REQUEST THAT WHITE HOUSE REVIEW THIS PORTION OF VISIT WITH VIEW TO FINDING ALTERNATIVE. THEY SUGGEST AMPLIFYING BAYEUX HANDSHAKING STOP AND TRIP THROUGH PICTURESQUE PART OF CITY. ALTERNATIVELY, THEY WILL LOOK FOR OTHER TOWN WHICH WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR SHISTLE-STOP.

4. TWO OTHER PROBLEMS REGARDING SCHEDULE HAVE SURFACED. FIRST IS FRENCH DESIRE THAT ARRIVAL STATEMENTS BE GIVEN IN HALL OF HONOR AT ORLY AIRPORT, WHICH HOLDS MAXIMUM OF 300 PEOPLE. RECALLING PRE-ADVANCE TEAM DISCUSSIONS, WE SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE A PROBLEM BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO INCLUDE ALL OF THE US PRESS. SAUZAY HAS PROMISED TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING CEREMONY IN PARKING LOT NEXT TO HALL OF HONOR. SECOND ISSUE IS FRENCH "DESIRE" THAT PRESIDENT CARTER TRAVEL TO NORMANDY IN SAME HELICOPTER AS PRESIDENT GISCARD. WE REPLIED THAT THIS WAS LIKELY TO PRESENT PROBLEM.

5. WE ALSO DISCUSSED SCHEDULE FOR MRS. CARTER WITH NO COMMITMENTS ON EITHER SIDE. FRENCH SUGGESTED THAT MRS. CARTER AND MRS. GISCARD D'ESTAING NOT ATTEND ARC DE TRIOMPHE CEREMONY, AS WIVES' ATTENDANCE IS NOT SECRET

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CUSTOMARY. SAUZAY ADDED THAT IF MRS. CARTER WAS KEEN TO ATTEND, THAT COULD BE WORKED OUT. SAUZAY SUGGESTED THAT MRS. CARTER COULD DEDICATE AMERICAN HOSPITAL WING AFTERNOON OF EITHER JANUARY 4 OR JANUARY 5, AND SAID HE WOULD CHECK TO SEE IF MRS. GISCARD WOULD WANT TO ACCOMPANY. WE MADE SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED IN REFTEL C AND SAUZAY PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THEM. HARTMAN

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